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INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 004107

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DEPT FOR SCA/FO DAS GASTRIGHT, SCA/A
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR AID/ANE, AID/DCHA/DG
NSC FOR JWOOD
OSD FOR SHIVERS
CENTCOM FOR CG CFC-A, CG CJTF-82 POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/15/2017
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [MOPS](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: AFGHAN GOVERNMENT'S SHORT TERM STABILIZATION PLANS
FOR MUSA QALA

Classified By: Deputy Chief of Mission Christopher W. Dell for reasons
1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) During a December 15 meeting, Presidential Adviser "Engineer" Ibrahim outlined for the DCM the GIROA's efforts to stabilize the district of Musa Qala in Helmand province, now that Afghan and ISAF troops have driven the Taliban from the area. Ibrahim said President Karzai had dispatched Independent Directorate for Local Governance General Director Jelani Popal to Musa Qala to convene a shura of tribal elders that would identify from among local candidates a new district governor. Ibrahim noted that, once Popal succeeded in locating an important missing Musa Qala tribal leader, Haji Shaw (AKA Haji Zahir), the shura would convene. In response to the DCM's inquiry, Ibrahim said Karzai had no plans for early travel to Musa Qala, but that such a visit would usefully highlight the government's commitment to filling the vacuum left by the ejected insurgents.

¶2. (C) Ibrahim said the GIROA will maintain an Afghan National Army (ANA) garrison in Musa Qala over the medium-term to prevent the Taliban's return and persuade fence-sitting locals that they would be protected from insurgent retaliation. He added that Interior Minister Zarar plans to augment the ANA with Afghan National Police.

¶3. (SBU) Alluding to the importance of long-term development projects in securing the loyalty of district residents, Ibrahim noted that the Musa Qala river's seasonal flooding disrupted agriculture and precipitated often-violent land disputes between villagers. He registered his interest in foreign donor funding for a levee-building project that could usefully employ local men, who might otherwise be tempted by the insurgent payroll.

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